

NEW SHOREHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Block Island School

March 19, 2012

7:00 p.m.

The New Shoreham School Committee met in open session on Monday, March 19, 2012, in the media center of the Block Island School. Chair William Padien called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. The following members were present: Elizabeth Connor, Patricia Doyle, Ann Hall, Sean McGarry, and William Padien. Robert Hicks was also in attendance.

Approval of Minutes

A motion (McGarry, Doyle) to approve the minutes of the meetings held on February 6 and 13, 2012, as presented carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, McGarry) to approve the executive session minutes of February 6, 2012, as written carried with a vote of 5-0.

Reports

The finance report through February 29, 2012, was presented for School Committee review. Mr. Hicks stated that the budget is still positive, but not by a lot. A motion (Padien, McGarry) to approve the fiscal report through February 29, 2012, carried with a vote of 5-0.

Mr. Hicks reported that he received information from the Trust regarding the school and town's 2012-13 health insurance rates. The increase is 12.8 percent, which is much higher than expected, and will negatively impact next year's budget by approximately \$38,000. Mr. Hicks requested a separate rate from Blue Cross/Blue Shield, but that was even higher (a 26 percent increase). He and Town Manager Nancy Dodge are contesting the rate with the Trust as not reflective of our experience and plan to speak with the executive director tomorrow. In the meantime, Mr. Hicks is working on a cut list if the 12.8 percent increase stands.

Old Business

Mr. Hicks stated that a change to the school schedule has been in the works for about a year in hopes of finding a solution to the problem of students missing school to compete in athletic events; students who play all three seasons miss 18-20 days per year. The revised schedule would lengthen the school day Monday through Thursday and shorten Friday to provide a window for athletic contests on Friday afternoons. He recommended that the School Committee adopt the modified school week, but with this comes the requirement that athletes may not miss more than 40 class periods per year. With the two make-up periods on Fridays between athletic seasons, the missed periods should be reduced to 20. School Committee members were pleased with the flexibility of the proposed change and thought it was fair that all parties (academics and athletics) were being asked to make changes, but wanted to be sure that the teams could remain in their respective leagues. If the School Committee adopts the new schedule, Mr. Hicks will update Policy ID: Extra-Curricular/Athletic Participation to reflect the changes. A motion (Connor, Doyle) to accept the superintendent's recommendation regarding the school schedule change as written (attached to these minutes) carried with a vote of 5-0.

Mr. Hicks stated that the School Committee had made two changes to the calendar to improve attendance. School was closed the Wednesday before Thanksgiving and this was very successful as attendance on Tuesday was strong. However, having the Friday off before the February vacation did not have the results he had hoped for. With both of those days off during the 2012-2013 school year, the 180th day is currently Monday, June 17, which is part of Race Week. He asked if the School Committee wanted to amend the calendar. The committee chose not to make any changes to the calendar because it was felt that Race Week is not as big as it used to be.

New Business

A motion (Padien, Hall) to consent to the appointments of Kirk Littlefield as the varsity softball head coach, John Tarbox as the varsity baseball head coach, Doug Michel as a varsity baseball assistant coach, Matt Moran as a varsity baseball assistant coach, and Mark Mollicone as the junior high baseball head coach carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Connor) to consent to the appointment of Sarah Deane as the food service helper/cashier carried with a vote of 5-0. It was noted that Mrs. Deane will be compensated at the rate of \$12.50 per hour and no benefits are provided for this part-time position.

The request for home schooling was withdrawn.

William Padien read the layoff notification date resolution into the record. A motion (Padien, Connor) to approve the layoff notification date Resolution carried with a vote of 5-0.

Elizabeth Connor read the binding arbitration resolution into the record. A motion (Padien, McGarry) to approve the binding arbitration resolution carried with a vote of 5-0.

Pat Doyle read the contract continuation resolution into the record. A motion (Padien, Connor) to approve the contract continuation resolution carried with a vote of 5-0.

Calendar of Events

The next regular monthly meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on Monday, April 9, 2012.

Correspondence

The listing of dates for the upcoming Town Council budget work session was submitted for School Committee information.

Adjournment

A motion (Padien, Doyle) at 8:37 p.m. to adjourn carried with a vote of 5-0.

Marsha L. Gutierrez, Clerk

Date approved: April 9, 2012

BLOCK ISLAND SCHOOL - NEW SHOREHAM SCHOOL DEPARTMENT
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: SCHOOL COMMITTEE
FROM: ROBERT HICKS
DATE: MARCH 19, 2012
RE: REVISED SCHOOL SCHEDULE

The recommendation is in two parts, the first addressing the school schedule and the second addressing the scheduling of athletic games.

1. I recommend the School Committee adopt a modified school week for the 2012-13 school year. The schedule of the modified week to add 28 minutes to the school day on Monday through Thursday, changing the school dismissal time from 2:21 to 2:49. The school day on Friday will be shortened to dismiss at 12:22. Within that change the following will apply:
 - a. The basic secondary schedule will consist of 35 periods (5 each for 7 classes) eight to be held daily on Monday-Thursday (32) and three on Friday. The rotation may be as presented (see *Restoring Time for Learning and School Schedule Option 12-15* on the school website) or modified by the administration as required by the needs of the school. The final two periods on Friday (periods 36 and 37) will be used as additional regularly scheduled classes between athletic seasons and during the athletic seasons for remediation, enrichment, or other purposes related to the advancement of the objectives of the school, including activities that expand beyond the high school population (e.g. K-12 activities) or involve the community.
 - b. The elementary and middle grades schedules may go forward as presented (see *Restoring Time for Learning and School Schedule Option 12-15* on the school website), although the administration may modify that schedule in consultation with the faculty and community so as to best address student learning needs as long as the modifications do not reduce total student learning time over the span of the week.
 - c. The administration will modify the work schedules of part time personnel so as to maintain the number of hours worked each week and provide student access to services.
 - d. The administration will work with the community in an effort to make available after school activities on Fridays. However the school day on Fridays will run from 7:50 to 12:22, with departing transportation provided only at dismissal and emphasizing that the final two periods on Fridays are part of the required school day.

2. In order for this new school schedule to be effective, modifications to the current scheduling of athletic contests are required. If the school - students, parents, teachers, staff – are to make this revision, then we must be sure that it will accomplish its goal: eliminating, or nearly eliminating, time lost by academics to athletics. As a matter of principle, academics are the core of why the school exists and must never play second fiddle to athletics. To that end, time in class must be viewed as essential to student learning and must be held in the highest regard. The following standards will apply to the scheduling of athletic contests:
 - a. Every effort will be made to avoid scheduling athletic contests on Monday-Thursday school days, home or away. When it is absolutely necessary to schedule games on Monday-Thursday school days the following limits will apply:
 - i. When scheduling Monday-Thursday school day games, strong preference will be given to home games.
 - ii. Over the course of the year (three sport seasons) no varsity athlete may miss more than 40 periods of class time competing in athletic contests. A missed period is one that a student does not attend, is dismissed more than ten (10) minutes early, or arrives more than ten (10) minutes late as a result of an athletic contest. Missed periods will be calculated separately for boys and girls teams with boys the accumulation of co-ed soccer, boys basketball, and baseball; and girls the accumulation of co-ed soccer, girls basketball, and softball. *(NOTE: while periods missed may accumulate to 40, actual class time missed will be approximately half of that due to Friday make-up periods.)*
 - iii. The period limitation will not apply to playoff games.
 - iv. The athletic director may request of the principal permission to schedule one game per team outside the period limitation. Such waivers should be considered unusual and not routine and are intended for such unforeseen situations as cancellation make-ups. Any such approved waivers shall be reported to the superintendent and School Committee.

Pending approval, I will bring to the School Committee a recommendation to amend Policy ID on Athletic and Extracurricular Participation to change the home game limitation on middle grade students from Monday-Friday to Monday-Thursday, in alignment with the new schedule. I will communicate our new schedule to the Department of Education, along with an explanation of the reasons behind it. Also, the reduction in lost class time will permit the elimination of the procedure in the athletic handbook regarding make-up study halls for missed time; a procedure that the administration agrees was ineffectual regardless.